CURSE OF THE SPAWN

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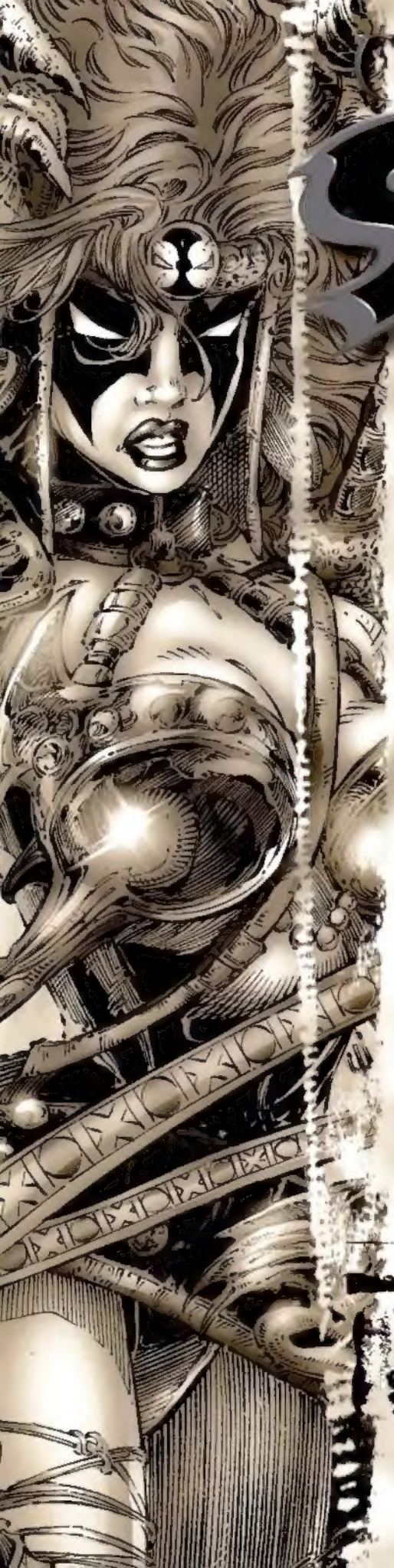

CURSE OF THE SPAWN

Todd McFarlane &
Image Comics presents...

A Fall of Doves

story
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Curse of the Spawn #9 Summary...

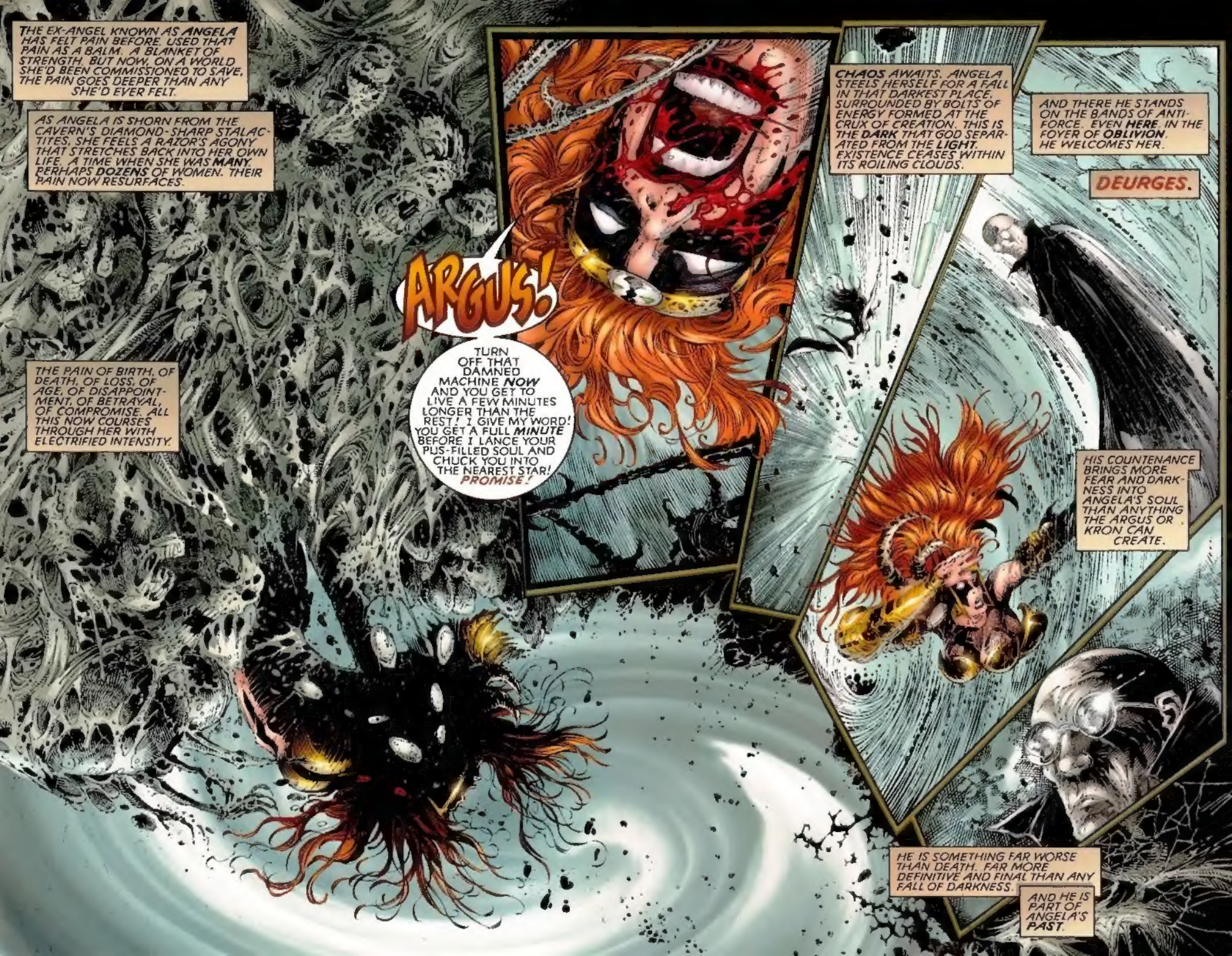
Angela has been commisioned by the survivors of the planet Pentagus -Fraser to destroy the evil ravaging their planet. At the center of the melee Angela ferociously battles the arachnid beast Argus. She becomes distracted by the face of the mysterious Deurges, long enough to become entangled in Argus' web.

After her capture the legend of Angela's origin is revealed in flashbacks of the lives of the sacrificing souls that were blended to become the Heavenly warrior. In each case the last thing they see is the dispassionate face of Deurges.

Dedicated to
William McElroy

CURSE OF THE SPAWN #10 June 1997. First Printing. Published by IMAGE COMICS 1440 N. Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92835. $1.95/$2.70 in Canada. Spawn®, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks 1997 of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 1997 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane. PRINTED IN CANADA.

THE KRON HAS BEEN ACTIVATED-- THROWN INTO OVERDRIVE BY A RACE OF NON-CORPOREAL EVIL CALLED THE ARGUS. NOW THE STORMS HAVE BEGUN. THRESHOLD FOR THE HEINOUS ORDERLESS SPRAWL KNOWN ONLY AS LIMBO. RAPED OPEN BY ANTI-FORCE. ANTI-LIFE. THE KRON THRUMS.
A MAELSTROM OF SAVAGE PSIONIC ENERGY WHIRLS INTO CATACLYSM THROUGHOUT THIS HOLLOWED TOMB OF DEATH... THIS LAST RESTING PLACE FOR THE UNDIGESTED POPULATION OF PENTAGAS-FRASER.
THE TANGIBLE WORLD SPIRALS TOWARD A DENUDED ANTI-MATTER SINGULARITY: A PINPOINT THAT DRAWS AWAY ALL LIGHT, ALL MATTER, ALL THINGS NATURAL AND NON. A CYCLONE PIT OF DEATH PUPPETEERED BY A TECH-NOLOGY CREATED BY FORCE UNKNOWN.


THE EX-ANGEL KNOWN AS ANGELA HAS FELT PAIN BEFORE. USED THAT PAIN AS A BALM. A BLANKET OF STRENGTH. BUT NOW, ON A WORLD SHE'D BEEN COMMISSIONED TO SAVE, THE PAIN GOES DEEPER THAN ANY SHE'D EVER FELT.
AS ANGELA IS SHORN FROM THE CAVERN'S DIAMOND-SHARP STALACTITES, SHE FEELS A RAZOR'S AGONY THAT STRETCHES BACK INTO HER OWN LIFE. A TIME WHEN SHE WAS MANY. PERHAPS DOZENS OF WOMEN. THEIR PAIN NOW RESURFACES.
THE PAIN OF BIRTH, OF DEATH, OF LOSS, OF AGE, OF DISAPPOINTMENT, OF BETRAYAL, OF COMPROMISE. ALL THIS NOW COURSES THROUGH HER WITH ELECTRIFIED INTENSITY.
ARGUS!
TURN OFF THAT DAMNED MACHINE NOW AND YOU GET TO LIVE A FEW MINUTES LONGER THAN THE REST! I GIVE MY WORD! YOU GET A FULL MINUTE BEFORE I LANCE YOUR PUS-FILLED SOUL AND CHUCK YOU INTO THE NEAREST STAR! PROMISE!
CHAOS AWAITS. ANGELA STEELS HERSELF FOR A FALL IN THAT DARKEST PLACE, SURROUNDED BY BOLTS OF ENERGY FORMED AT THE CRUX OF CREATION. THIS IS THE DARK THAT GOD SEPARATED FROM THE LIGHT. EXISTENCE CEASES WITHIN ITS ROILING CLOUDS.
AND THERE HE STANDS ON THE BANDS OF ANTI-FORCE. EVEN HERE, IN THE FOYER OF OBLIVION. HE WELCOMES HER.
DEURGES.
HIS COUNTENANCE BRINGS MORE FEAR AND DARKNESS INTO ANGELA'S SOUL THAN ANYTHING THE ARGUS OR KRON CAN CREATE.
HE IS SOMETHING FAR WORSE THAN DEATH. FAR MORE DEFINITIVE AND FINAL THAN ANY FALL OF DARKNESS.
AND HE IS PART OF ANGELA'S PAST.

ELYSIUM. THE CITY OF LIGHTS. THE CITY OF ANGELS.
I CAN'T GET OVER THE BEAUTY OF THIS PLACE. THE FEELING OF PEACE AND STRENGTH.
FOR A TIME THAT IS NOT TIME, THE MENTORS SOOTHE THE MIND AND SPIRIT OF THE NEW RECRUIT.
THE TRANSITION FOR THE MANY LIVES TO THE ONE LIGHT CAN BE UNSETTLING.
IT'S WHAT WE DO HERE, ANGELA. HERE AND ON THE VARIOUS PLANES. WE KEEP THE PEACE.
AND YOU, KATHERINE-- YOU'RE A HUNTER?
A PRIMARY-HUNTER. THE BEST JOB THIS PLACE HAS TO OFFER. I KILL HELLSPAWN.

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YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU'VE BEEN FULLY TRAINED. BUT I CAN TELL YOU WITH CONFIDENCE THAT YOU'RE GONNA BE A *NATURAL*.
WHAT ARE ALL THESE?
HERE IN THE HALL OF TROPHIES WE KEEP SOME OF OUR MOST MEMORABLE KILLS. AS LONG AS THE DARK MINION KEEPS SERVING UP THESE LOSERS WE'LL JUST KEEP TAKING THEM OUT.
DOWN *THERE*-- *THAT'S* WHAT THE SOLDIERS OF HELL AND THE BEARERS OF ITS PUTRID STANDARD HAVE TO FACE.
FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW HOW MALEBOLGIA CAN GET *UP* IN THE MORNING KNOWING WE'RE OUT HERE WAITING.
THIS ISN'T EXACTLY THE VISION OF HEAVEN I EXPECTED.
NO HARPS? NO CHORAL VOICES?
THAT GOES ON. BELIEVE ME. BUT HEY, I WAS THE SAME WAY WHEN *I* GOT HERE. GIVE IT TIME, GIRLFRIEND. YOU'RE ONE OF THE LUCKY CHOSEN.

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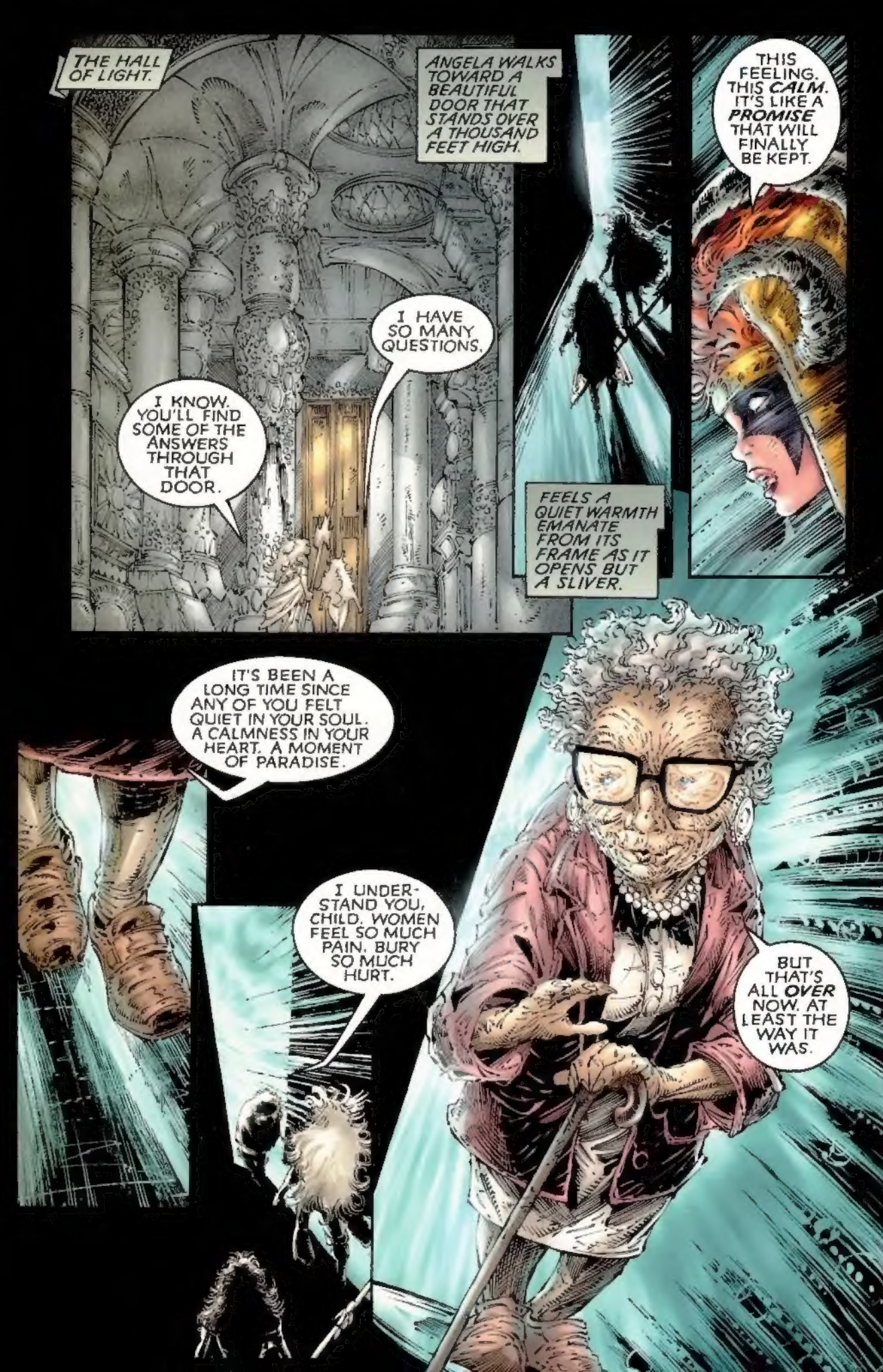
THE HALL OF LIGHT.
ANGELA WALKS TOWARD A BEAUTIFUL DOOR THAT STANDS OVER A THOUSAND FEET HIGH.
I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS.
I KNOW. YOU'LL FIND SOME OF THE ANSWERS THROUGH THAT DOOR.
FEELS A QUIET WARMTH EMANATE FROM ITS FRAME AS IT OPENS BUT A SLIVER.
THIS FEELING. THIS CALM. IT'S LIKE A PROMISE THAT WILL FINALLY BE KEPT.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANY OF YOU FELT QUIET IN YOUR SOUL. A CALMNESS IN YOUR HEART. A MOMENT OF PARADISE.
I UNDER-STAND YOU, CHILD. WOMEN FEEL SO MUCH PAIN. BURY SO MUCH HURT.
BUT THAT'S ALL OVER NOW. AT LEAST THE WAY IT WAS.

I KNOW YOU, DON'T I? I MEAN, WE'VE MET BEFORE...
...WHEN I...
...WE...!
...oh, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL IT--
Ssh, THE ANSWERS WILL COME. BUT FIRST WE SHOULD WALK A WHILE.
TAKE MY HAND, CHILD.
IN A TRANQUIL HEARTBEAT ANGELA AND THE OLD WOMAN ARE IN A BEAUTIFUL FIELD OF LILIES. A PLACE OF ETHEREAL JOY AND WONDER.
IS THIS HEAVEN?
THIS IS JUST A SMALL STROLLING PATH I LIKE TO TAKE. A PLACE TO REFLECT ON THINGS COME AND GONE. OTHER THINGS YET TO BE. BUT TIME IS ALWAYS.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...?

EMOTIONS KNOW NOTHING OF TIME. THEY ARE FOREVER. EMOTIONS LIKE LOVE, HATE, VENGEANCE CAN SHAPE A UNIVERSE. DIVIDE CONTINUUA.
WOMEN ARE THE HARBINGERS OF EMOTION. THEY CARRY A *FIRE* INSIDE THEM THAT TOO OFTEN MUST BE CONTAINED. NO TECHNOLOGY CAN STAND AGAINST THAT FIRE. AND THROUGH MOST OF A WOMAN'S LIFE THAT FIRE IS STOKED BY *ANGUISH*. WITH NO OUTLET. NO PATH TO TRAVEL TOWARD ESCAPE.
YOU *KNOW* THIS, ANGELA. YOU HAVE BEEN MANY WHO KNOW PAIN. WOMEN HARBOR THE *DEEPEST* EMOTIONS. SO MUCH HAS TO BE BURIED.
YES. CHILDREN I BORE, HUSBANDS I'VE LOVED, FAMILIES, FRIENDS--LOST. SO MANY TEARS IN THE FACE OF SOULLESS, MINDLESS HORRORS BROUGHT ON BY *EVIL*. EVIL AT ITS MOST NAKED. MOST *HIDEOUS*.
BEHOLD THE MASTER OF PAIN. *MALEBOLGIA*. THIS BEAST HAS DELIVERED AGONY TO *BILLIONS* OF WORLDS AND DIMENSIONS. THERE THE THREADS OF UNCHECKED ANGUISH STRETCH AND WEAVE WITHOUT END.
DEAR GOD...
A WOMAN KNOWS ABOUT PAIN. A WOMAN *UNDERSTANDS*. BECAUSE SHE ALONE BRINGS LIFE THROUGH A CORRIDOR OF PURE AGONY. THROUGH ANGUISH, THROUGH SCREAMS, THROUGH STRENGTH, COMES JOY, PURITY, AND *PEACE*. LOVE AND LIFE, CHILD.

AGAIN ANGELA TAKES THE OLD WOMAN'S HAND, BUT THIS TIME FINDS HERSELF SPIRITED TO THE EDGE OF A CRYSTAL CLIFF OVERLOOKING THE VERY PRECIPICE OF OBLIVION.
THE UNIVERSE IN ALL ITS MAJESTY SPRAWLS BEFORE THEM.
IT'S BEYOND BEAUTIFUL. BEYOND ANYTHING I'VE EVER IMAGINED.
IT'S THE PROMISE OF PARADISE, MY DEAR. WAITING TO BE BORN.
WHAT CAN I DO? I DON'T WANT THIS TO BE LOST OR EVEN TOUCHED BY THAT THING MALEBOLGIA. TELL ME! SHOW ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO PROTECT IT!
NOW YOU'RE STARTING TO SEE.
THE UNIVERSE IS YOUR CHILD AS MUCH AS IT'S MINE OR ANYONE ELSE'S. IT RESTS WITHIN THE WOMB OF OUR SOUL. ITS HEART BEATS AND WE FEED IT FROM OUR COLLECTIVE PLACENTA.
BUT TO GIVE BIRTH -- WE MUST FACE THE PAIN.
HE STANDS ATOP THE ICE-COLD SPLINTERED CORE OF A DEAD STAR.
DEURGES.
KROOM!
HIS IMAGE BECOMES FLAME. VANISHES INTO THE ENDLESS BLACKNESS. WHERE HE WAITS WITH THE PATIENCE OF THE DAMNED.
ANGELA SCREAMS.

LIMBO IN ALL ITS CATACLYSMIC HORROR
"WORSE THAN I'D EXPECTED BUT NOW THAT I'M IN THIS MESS THE MYSTERY OF IT ISN'T SO NERVE-WRACKING ANYMORE."
ANGELA IS SLAMMED WITH ANTI-FORCE PULSES FROM ALL SIDES HER HUNTERS' FLESH BEARS UP BY SHEER STRENGTH OF WILL. BUT THE PAIN SHE'S ENDURED FOR TIME UNTOLD IS DRAINING HER
"REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE, DAMMIT. HANG ONTO THAT DON'T GO ALL WEAK AND DOE EYED NOW THAT IT'S ALL ON THE LINE"
ANGELA SUMMONS HER RIBBONS JUST AS THE FLUX PULSES INCREASE THEIR DIRE INTENSITY SHE WRAPS HERSELF IN A BANDED COCOON OF HEAVEN'S OWN LIGHT AND LIFE-GIVING POWER
THEN, STILL MORE POWERFUL BLASTS COME. LIGHTNING PULSES WITH THE SEVERITY OF AN EXPLODING PULSAR. ANGELA'S BANDS ABSORB THE BRUNT OF THE NULL-FORCE IMPACTS.
BUT A MOMENT LATER AN ADDITIONAL FLUX-CHARGE SHOVES THE EX-ANGEL OUT OF EXISTENCE WITH AN ICY WINK

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EVIL IS UNRELENTING, TIRELESS, AND A CONSTANT PURVEYOR OF BAD TASTE.
LIKE YOUR BASIC LOUNGE LIZARD WHO JUST WON'T TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER. SO, YOU'VE GOT TO SPILL YOUR DRINK DOWN HIS PANTS AND THEN *TRIP* HIM WHEN HE TURNS TO GRAB A NAPKIN AND HEAD FOR THE LITTLE BOY'S ROOM.
"GIVE UP, GIVE UP, YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE
"WE'RE EVIL, WE'RE DARKNESS, WE'RE THE BIG BAD WOLF WITH CHEESE BREATH AND NO MANNERS
"LAY DOWN, ROLL OVER, GIVE IN"
THEY HOPE YOU'LL BACK DOWN, BUCKLE UNDER THEIR CONSTANT INTIMIDATION.
ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE DARK ONES ARE *COWARDS* AT HEART. BIG TALK WITH NOTHING TO BACK IT UP.
SCREW THAT NOISE! MAKE 'EM EAT *COLD STEEL*, ANGELA. SHOVE YOUR LANCE WHERE THE *SUN* DON'T SHINE.
BELIEVE YOU ME, EVIL CAN'T *STAND* THE SIGHT OF ITS OWN BLOOD. ONE GOOD BITCH SLAP AND THE FIGHT'S USUALLY ALL OVER.

I THOUGH WE WERE GOING BACK TO THE COMBAT COURTYARD.
IN A MINUTE.
THERE'S SOME-THING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.
CHECK OUT *THIS* UGLY BRUTE. A HELLSPAWN FROM THE DAYS OF CALIGULA. A REAL HARD-ASS, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD.
I CAN'T *BELIEVE* ANYBODY BROUGHT THIS MONSTER DOWN, WHO *DID* IT? *YOU*, KATHERINE?
NOPE, SWEETHEART. *YOU* HAD THE HONORS.
ME?! BUT I HAVEN'T LEFT ELYSIUM SINCE I GOT HERE!
YOU FORGET, TIME ISN'T A STRAIGHT LINE. IT'S AN OCEAN. AND ELYSIUM TOUCHES ALL PARTS OF ITS EVER-SHIFTING TIDES AND CURRENTS.
NICE JOB, BY THE WAY. LOOKS LIKE I TAUGHT YOU A THING OR TWO.

LUCKILY FOR NEW YORK CITY, ANGELA'S REEMERGENCE FROM NON-EXISTENCE IS LESS TRAUMATIC THAN HER ENTRANCE.
A NEARBY UNFORTUNATE HAS BEEN SCORCHED RAW IN HIS CARDBOARD CONDO.
WELL, THAT WAS SPECIAL. FEELS LIKE EVERY CELL IN MY BODY HAS A MIGRANE HEADACHE. CRAP, WHAT A MESS.
JEEZ, LOOK, THAT WAS LITTLE KENNY'S PLACE. NICE G.E. WASHER-DRYER BOX, TOO. DAMN.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS PLACE DRAWS ALL THE FREAKAZOIDS? THE LOW RENT?
Oh MAN oh MAN!
SHE AIN'T FOR REAL, MAN. SAW A MOVIE LIKE THIS ONCE. AMAZON WOMEN FROM VENUS OR SOMETHING. COME TO STEAL MEN'S PRIVATES.
HEY, YOU TWO GENIUSES CARE TO TELL ME WHAT PLANET THIS IS?
THAT'S JUST HOW IT STARTS! THEN IT'S SNIP-SNIP AND OFF THEY GO TO MAKE MORE AMAZONS OUT OF OUR BODILY JUICES.
LISTEN TO THESE BOZOS. THIS MUST BE EARTH.

PLACE LOOKS FAMILIAR. WAIT. THAT SKY--!
SHE FEELS THE FORCES CHURNING ABOVE. A GRINDING OF THE UNIVERSE'S TECTONIC PLATES. AND FROM THE SKY FALL DOZENS OF PRISTINE WHITE DOVES. DEAD AS THEY STRIKE THE PAVEMENT.
NO. NOT THIS. PLEASE.
SHE KNOWS--AND HOPES THAT SOMEHOW SHE IS WRONG. THIS PLACE, THIS BATTLEFIELD FOR FRAGILE SOULS, HAS ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT WHIRLING UNCONTROLLABLE COSMIC FORCES INTO THE MIX.
BUT ONCE THE DOVE HAS BECOME ASH IN HER HANDS, AND OTHERS BURST INTO FLAMES AT HER FEET, SHE KNOWS THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED.
THOSE STUPID BASTARDS. THEY TURNED ON THE KRON AND FORMED A BREACH. NEXT, THE ETERNAL TRIUMVERATE WILL START TO FRACTURE.
GOOD JOB, ANGELA. FROM A SIMPLE CLEAN-AND-SWEEP JOB TO MELTING THE GLUE THAT HOLDS THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE TOGETHER.
THIS KIND OF THING CAN REALLY SHAKE UP A WOMAN'S SELF-ESTEEM.

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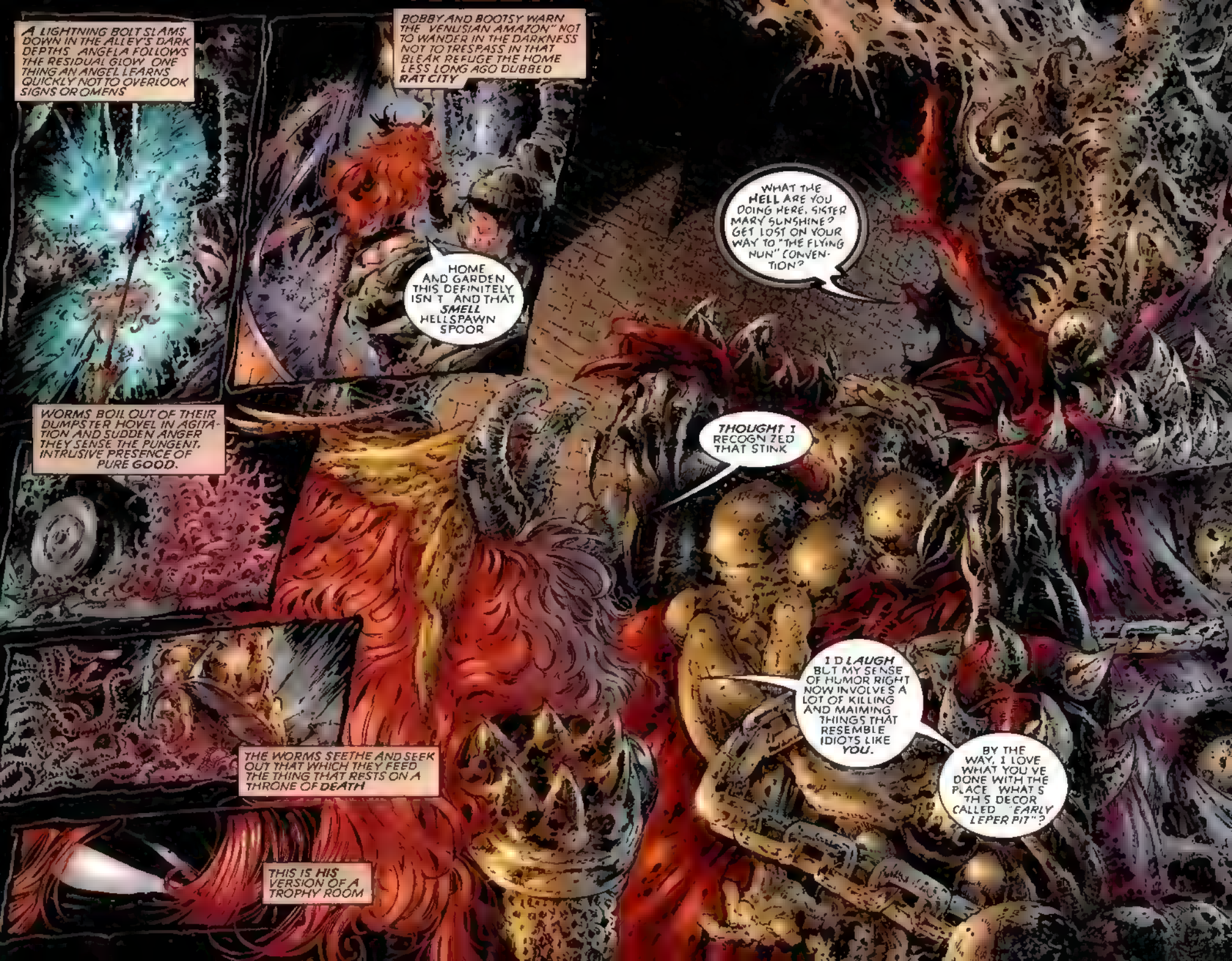

A LIGHTNING BOLT SLAMS DOWN IN THE ALLEY'S DARK DEPTHS. ANGELA FOLLOWS THE RESIDUAL GLOW. ONE THING AN ANGEL LEARNS QUICKLY: NOT TO OVERLOOK SIGNS OR OMENS.
BOBBY AND BOOTSY WARN THE "VENUSIAN AMAZON" NOT TO WANDER IN THE DARKNESS NOT TO TRESPASS IN THAT BLEAK REFUGE THE HOME LESS LONG AGO DUBBED RAT CITY.
HOME AND GARDEN THIS DEFINITELY ISN'T. AND THAT SMELL HELLSPAWN SPOOR.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE, SISTER MARY SUNSHINE? GET LOST ON YOUR WAY TO "THE FLYING NUN" CONVENTION?
WORMS BOIL OUT OF THEIR DUMPSTER HOVEL IN AGITATION AND SUDDEN ANGER. THEY SENSE THE PUNGENT, INTRUSIVE PRESENCE OF PURE GOOD.
THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED THAT STINK.
I'D LAUGH BUT MY SENSE OF HUMOR RIGHT NOW INVOLVES A LOT OF KILLING AND MAIMING THINGS THAT RESEMBLE IDIOTS LIKE YOU.
BY THE WAY, I LOVE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE. WHAT'S WITH DECOR CALLED "EARLY LEPER PIT"?
THE WORMS SEETHE AND SEEK OUT THAT WHICH THEY FEED. THE THING THAT RESTS ON A THRONE OF DEATH.
THIS IS HIS VERSION OF A TROPHY ROOM.

SO, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? COME TO FINISH THE JOB YOU SCREWED UP?
DON'T TEMPT ME. RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT OTHER EVIL JERK-OFFS TO WORRY ABOUT. ANYWAY, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE SELF-DESTRUCTING JUST FINE WITH NO HELP AT ALL.
SO WHAT'S GOING ON? THE SKY'S GOING HAYWIRE AND MY SKIN FEELS LIKE IT'S STARTING TO UNRAVEL. IT'S THIS KIND OF CRAP THAT PUTS ME IN A BAD MOOD. AND WHEN I'M IN A BAD MOOD I TEND TO REDECORATE.
NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS BUT THERE'S A FRACTURE IN THE MULTI-CONTINUUA. A BREACH IN THE UNIVERSAL LIMBO CAUSED BY A BUNCH OF EVIL LOSERS KNOWN AS THE ARGUS.
AND, LET ME GUESS, YOU PISSED THEM OFF. WHAT A SHOCK
LOOK, RIGHT NOW I'M KINDA BUSY PLANNING TO KILL THE WORTHLESS SON OF A BITCH WHO KILLED ME. SO, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THIS POOR EXCUSE FOR A 'STAR TREK' EPISODE AND GET STEPPING
AND YOU WONDER WHY YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
NO, ACTUALLY, I DON'T.

THE SKIES CHURN WITH RAPIDLY BOILING ANGER.
BALANCES HAVE BEGUN TO SHIFT AND SWAY ON THE UNWIELDY FULCRUMS OF CONTINUUM-FLUX.
COGLIOSTRO HAS SEEN THE SIGNS MANY TIMES IN THE PAST. BUT NOT LIKE THIS. NO, THIS IS A SIGNAL OF 'THE COMING TIME'. OFTEN HE'D HOPED NOT TO LIVE TO SEE THIS. BUT NOT EVEN DEATH OFFERS ANY HOPE OF ESCAPE.
MY DEAR COGLIOSTRO.
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG
THAT VOICE. LIKE A DAGGER THROUGH THE SPINE OF HUMANITY.
OH GOD IN HEAVEN. IT CAN'T BE. PRAY IN THE NAME OF ALL THAT IS GOOD AND RIGHTEOUS IN THIS UNIVERSE THAT IT IS NOT!
SINCE WE STOOD ON THE SAME SOIL.
IT MUSTN'T BE. NOT YOU!

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? HOW CAN YOU BE ROAMING FREE?!
QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY. CERTAINLY YOU'VE SURMISED
THE TRUE END IS FINALLY UPON US.
NOT WHILE THERE'S BREATH IN MY BODY!
STILL FEARLESS. AND FOOLISH.
WE ARE LONG PAST THIS, DEAR COUNT. I AM NO LONGER A PRISONER AND YOU ARE NO LONGER MY JAILOR
KRAL
THESE ARE DAYS ANEW WONDROUS DAYS.

SO YOU GOT TOSSED OUT OF THIS LIMBO FREAK SHOW AND LAND ON MY DOOR-STEP.
WHY?
IF I HAD THE ANSWERS I WOULDN'T BOTHER TALKING TO YOU NOW, WOULD I.
HAVE YOU LOOKED IN A MIRROR LATELY? THE COVER MODEL FOR HUGO BOSS YOU AIN'T.
THAT'S AN ACCOMPLISHMENT ALL BY ITSELF. THE LAST TIME WE WERE TOGETHER YOU WEREN'T EXACTLY MAKING EYE CONTACT.
LIGHTNING EVERYWHERE THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.
YOU NOTICED THAT, huh. MAYBE YOU OUGHTA CLIMB OUT OF MOUSE-TOWN MORE OFTEN
RAT CITY.
WHATEVER.

THEN ANGELA SEES SOMETHING THAT TERRIFIES HER TO THE QUICK
A BOLT OF ANTI-LIFE FORCE FOLDS OUT OF THE NULL AND HURTLES INTO THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY.
THE CRYSTALLINE BUILDING IS CLEAVED IN TWO BY THE IMPACT AND EXPLOSION
STRAIGHT AT THE ELYSIUM EMBASSY.
SOULS SCREAM FROM ITS SHATTERED MIDST.
APOCALYPSE. ARMAGEDDON. ALPHA. OMEGA.
DEURGES.
THE END IS NOW.

IMAGE INFO

blah, blah, blah 57

[illegible] All Way Cool feature [illegible] World's Koolmyer [illegible] Mook [illegible] Pooch guy [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

CURSE WORDS™

CURSE WORDS P O Box 27228 Tempe AZ. 85285-7228
HTTP://WWW.SPAWN.COM

For those of you with HBO, I hope you like what you saw because we've got another twelve episodes coming out for you. On another note, we're going to have a huge display of Spawn movie props at our booth at the San Diego Comicon, July 17 through the 20th. I'll be there signing autographs along with Danny Miki, Chance Wolf, Brian Haberlin, Todd Broeker and Mark Nicholas. Stop by and see us!

Dear Curse Words,

I have to start off saying that issues 5-8 were very deep and mind blowing. I think Mr McElroy is a great story teller with a lot of energy. I know you have been told this about your comic a few times in the past but this time I believe it is pretty valid. Were you Mr McElroy, inspired by the Crow movies when you were writing the Sam and Twitch mini-series. I am not saying this just because the comic was dark but because of the whole idea of Gretchen Culver's coming back from the dead after being brutally murdered and seeking out her killers one by one. Deep breath, I thought it was a really amazing story either way.

My next question goes out to Todd. The reason I choose to call it a question instead of an accusation is because I admire you very much. Back in the early days of Spawn you said you did not want to exploit the character of Spawn. But a few issues back I was reading in the part about the cartoon series. I noticed it talking about shirts, caps, bags, pins and everything else under the rainbow with your characters logo on it. Would you not call this exploitation?

My last question is for Greg. Don't you think that Oates from the popular 80's band looks mysteriously a lot like our favorite monkey boy, Bababoey?

Thanks for your time and I will happily await a return.

Mike Colapietro

Alan: No, I wasn't influenced by the Crow for the "Suture" story. Suture is a character I created more than nine years ago but had no outlet for until Curse. I would love to turn her story into a movie but most studios would find it too dark.
Todd: As a person who controls the licensing of the movie & the TV show, I think I've held back pretty well in terms of putting out product that floods the market. The HBO product you speak of is being done by HBO itself who asked for permission from me to make a few hundred of each one of the items you speak of. Most of them are being used as gifts for internal use at the company but since they were making them decided to put some of them out to Diamond Distribution. After working with everybody for the last couple of years at HBO and seeing as how I wasn't intent on doing anything immediately with the license, when they asked, I allowed it as a small favor to some of my HBO friends. A couple hundred items here and there does not constitute a flood but more of a trickle.

Dear Mr McFarlane, Sir

I have just finished reading issue #7 of Curse of the Spawn and #59 of Spawn and I must say each one was "muy bueno"! But, I have a question about some of the artwork. I mean don't get me wrong, I love it. In fact, it's one of the main reasons I buy both Spawn comics other than the fantastic stories. But in issue #7 of Curse, on page 16 when Suture goes crazy with the surgical saw, there's so much blood on the page, I can barely see much of anything. Why so much?

Now on another note I must reply to a letter in issue #7. I, myself, am a Catholic and I rather enjoyed the new setting and characters of Curse especially the Anti-pope. (He's one of those characters that you love to hate.) And another thing he mentioned how "the humans ran scared shitless from the walking dead." So if a zombie was chasing him would he just stand there and get eaten? Hell no. He'd be running away just as scared as they were.

Anyway, I thought that someone should say something. Keep up the good work. PS I'm looking forward to the new movie.

James Rambo
Hyattsville, Maryland

One of the things we were trying to go for when we started this title is to try to make the storyline a bit more sophisticated than Spawn and within those parameters it means you can go into a story and ideas that you normally wouldn't. Some of those ideas can be fairly dark at heart. Now that doesn't necessarily mean that we should be putting excessive blood on pages and panel. That's not what I'm intimating. It's just that we need to be a little more responsible in who we present some of these ideas to. Sometimes we hit the mark, other times we don't. Given that you're going into a sensitive area anyway you're never going to please everyone with what they believe is good taste and what isn't. It's a constant struggle with the TV show, the movie and even the look of some of our toys. So thanks for throwing your two cents in. Everyone's opinion is weighed equally.

I've been reading and collecting Spawn for about ten months now (and finally managed to procure an entire set -'taint easy!) but never felt compelled to buy any of the mini-series. I decided to try Curse of the Spawn on a whim really and after the first issue I really could not get interested in that story. However, I still bought it every month in my folder and after accumulating seven issues, I decided to give it another try - I still didn't care for the first story with Daniel Lanso - and wish I could give you a reason why - I don't know if it was the mood, the despair, how depressing the whole thing reads or a combination of a lot of things - I just didn't like this story.

But the one with Suture through #'s 5-7? This is a great story!! I enjoyed the artwork too - the one page spread of Suture confronting Mawbley in the theater is my favorite (my favorite scene in the story so far). This is a story more to my style and liking - and besides, Sam and Twitch were always two of my favorite characters from the Spawn title (whose presence there has been sorely missed by the reader). But having them in the Curse title for this story arc more than makes up for it. They could have their own title and I would buy it every month, but I could understand, Todd, if you feel this could be spreading your characters a little too thin.

I know there will be some readers out there responding with - "but there's no Spawn in this story arc" Screw 'em! This is a great story.! Suture is a really interesting character and I don't know how this is going to end but I'm telling you guys, you have got to bring her back for another appearance somewhere (if the story justifies it). I doubt that I will see another comic story that grabbed me as much as this one for the rest of the year. I'm glad now that I stuck it out with this title. Thanks for listening.

Sincerely
Jeff Haskett Age 36
Kenner, Louisiana

Dear Curse Words Crew,

Now a few questions, comments, and observations. I start with what I consider a serious subject in response to one Jason Burky's letter featured in #7. I know that this comic might offend some people but you can take it in one of two ways. You can be a complete ass and write a nasty letter pointing out everything you didn't like or you could just not read the book and move on with your own life and let everyone else go on with theirs.

In issue #6 when John Mawbley walked into the theater and the Spawn movie was playing, I nearly fell out of my chair. An excellent detail which deserves appraisal.

Pronounce Phlegethonyarre please.

Please, please, please bring back Daniel Lanso. He is in my opinion the best Spawn yet (no disrespect intended to Al Simmons, Medieval Spawn or any other Hell Spawn which have appeared) and I implore you bring him back in a future story arc. Please.

This is a more personal question. In #7, you featured a Spawn hockey team photo in blah, blah, blah. How can I get one of those jerseys?

Also on a personal note, my local toy stores didn't carry the first Total Chaos toy line for some reason that they won't explain to me. How can I get that toy line now?

Well, that's it. I don't have anything else to ask except that you keep up the good work. Thank you for your time and attention.

A huge fan
Michael Joseph
Antioch, Tennessee

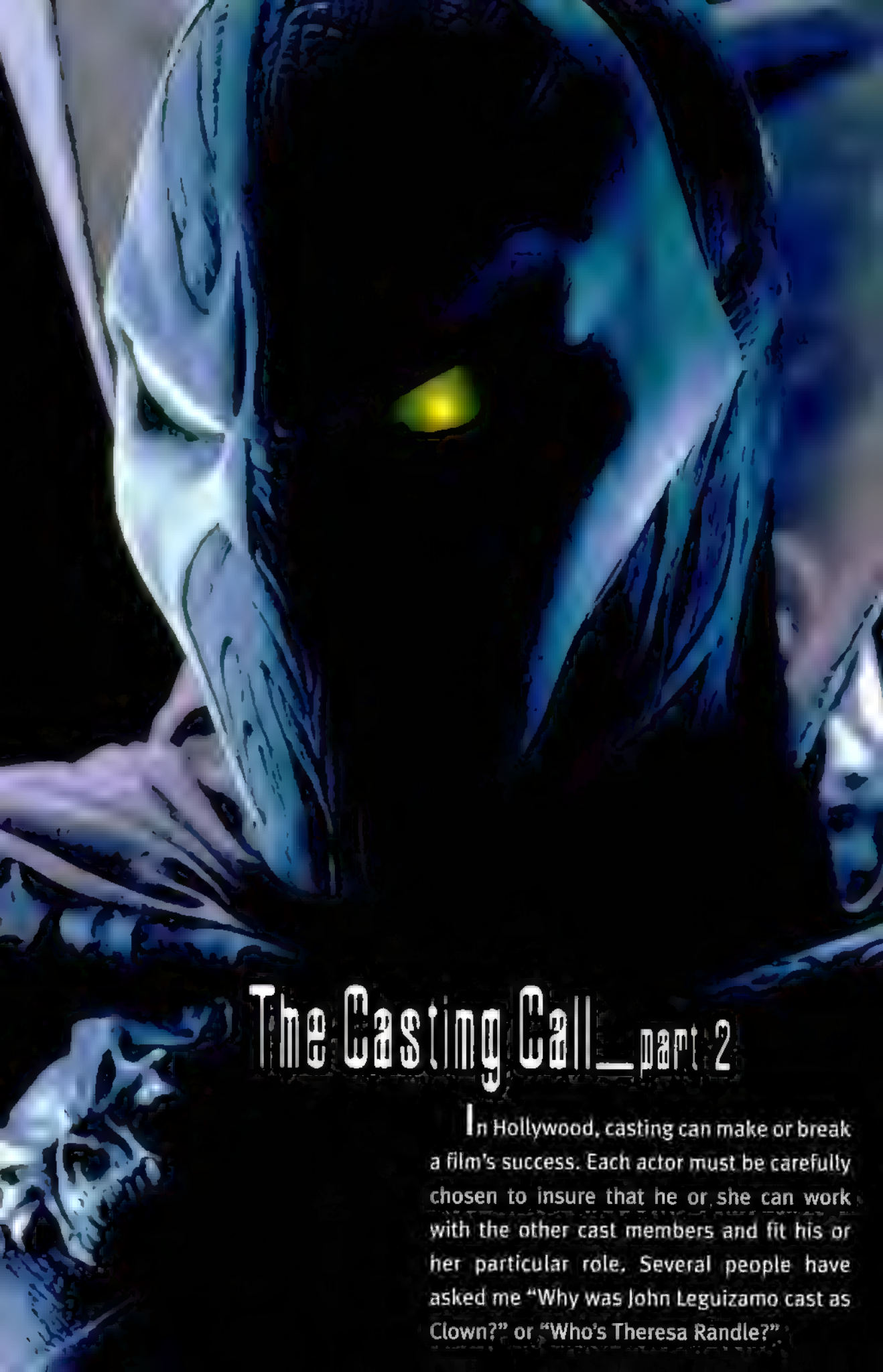
A lot of the apparel that you see in some of our photos are made exclusively for the teams that we sponsor and aren't manufactured for resale. Although, I believe Chet, who runs the Collector's Club, is making a few items to take around to conventions this year and may put his remaining stock in the Collector's Club brochure in the future.
As for the reasons we put the Spawn movie on the screen, we are not above a little self promotion and thought it would be a neat little inside joke for those that were paying attention. Glad you caught it.
If you're looking for some of our toys, there are a couple of good magazines that deal with back issue crises and have lots of good advertising for those that carry back stock. Also, a lot of comic shops now carry our product so if your local one doesn't, you may want to phone another one.
In response to those that don't like the product and to just move on instead of belly achin': I assume that most of them are complaining that they actually like the product and that they would just like to see it improved somewhat. Chronic complaining of the same thing elicits the same response from me, but initially I assume that each of these is just an isolated event.

Dear Gentlemen

I saw the first two episodes of Spawn. I think it's a very good cartoon. I can't wait to see how some of the other characters of the comic like the Malebogia and the Curse would be like given the animation treatment. One complaint I have is the narration. Even though it is supposed to fill in for viewers who never read Todd McFarlane's book, I kind of compare that to Harrison Ford's narration in Blade Runner. I mean he's a good actor but the narration was not necessary. I feel the same way for the cartoon. I hope there will be more episodes of Spawn than the initial six that will be currently running on Home Box Office.

Sincerely
Matthew Tylicki, Jr.
Hamilton Twp, New Jersey

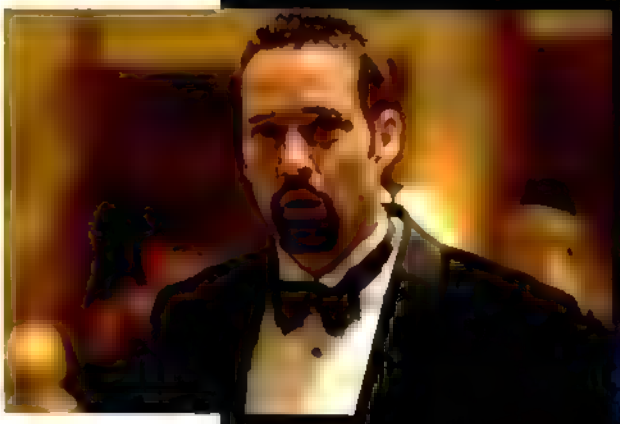
We are moving forward on the next six episodes and actually will be getting another six in a few short weeks, bringing us to a total of 18 episodes. The ratings are going quite well and the people at HBO seem to be pretty happy with what we've given them so far. As for your dislike of the narration, we felt that it would be an easy way to get some quick information into this weird complex world without slowing down the story line too much. Again, you can overdo a good thing anywhere you go so we are all aware of using the device as a crutch. Keep reading the blah, blah column and our other editorial pages for other developments on the show.



The Casting Call_part 2

In Hollywood, casting can make or break a film's success. Each actor must be carefully chosen to insure that he or she can work with the other cast members and fit his or her particular role. Several people have asked me "Why was John Leguizamo cast as Clown?" or "Who's Theresa Randle?"

John Leguizamo recently appeared in The Pest as Pestaro, in Romeo and Juliet as Tybalt, in The Fan as Manny, and in To Wong Foo as Chi Chi. With the role of the Clown entailing a substantial amount of make-up and prosthetics, whoever filled Clown's shoes needed to not only capture his personality, but bring him to life underneath all that costume. John Leguizamo masters that art, and at times, appears to become one with Clown. His ability to breath life into Clown's sense of humor is unparalleled. Leguizamo has also appeared in two films directed by Brian DePalma, Carlito's Way and Casualties of War as well as in HBO's specials Spic-o-Rama and House of Buggin'.



D.B. Sweeney plays Terry Fitzgerald and began his professional career on Broadway. He was then cast in the lead role in Francis Ford Coppola's Gardens of Stone which also starred James Caan and James Earl Jones. Fitzgerald needed to be tough in his scenes with Wynn and Simmons, but also tender with Wanda and Cyan, and Sweeney best achieved that as Fitzgerald. On the big screen, Sweeney has appeared in Memphis Belle, Roommates, The Cutting Edge, and as Shoeless Joe Jackson in Eight Men Out.

Theresa Randle, who plays Wanda, also has an extensive film, television and theater background with key or starring roles in three of Spike Lee's films: Girl 6, Malcolm X, and Jungle Fever. Several actresses auditioned for the part of Wanda, but Randle best captured both Wanda's dedication and love for her family, and her determination and intelligence as a successful business woman. Randle has also appeared in numerous other films including Space Jam, Bad Boys, and Beverly Hills Cop III.

Nicol Williamson plays Cogliostro and has an extensive film, theater and television career spanning both North America and Europe. For Cogliostro, Williamson did not have to wear any wigs or beards. What you see is real. His leading role film credits include Excalibur, Hamlet by director Tony Richardson, The Wind in the Willows, and The Advocate. Williamson's stage career is not only quite extensive, but extremely impressive. With Broadway credits including parts in Uncle Vanya, I Hate

Hamlet, and The Entertainer, Williamson has also had roles in several of the London based Royal Shakespeare Company productions including Macbeth and Twelfth Night. Finally, his television credits are also very extensive having appeared in the PBS/BBC productions of Macbeth and Mountbatten–The Last Victory. He has also been in Of Mice and Men and Christopher Columbus both from ABC.

Melinda Clarke, who plays Jessica Priest in Spawn, has appeared on stage, on both evening and daytime television, and on the big screen. With starring roles in features such as Return to Two Moon Junction and Return of the Living Dead III to playing Faith in daytime television's Days of Our Lives, Clarke has quite a variety of acting roles to her credit. Her stage credits are also quite varied including roles in West Side Story, The Elephant Man and Cats.

Miko Hughes plays Zack in the movie and although he might not be recognizable at first glance, Miko has been in several well-known movies and television shows. Recently, Miko worked with director Ron Howard in Apollo 13, director Wes Craven in Wes Craven's New Nightmare, and director Ivan Reitman in Kindergarten Cop. He has also appeared in Cops and Robertson and Pet Sematary. His television credits include roles on Picket Fences, Touched by an Angel, Melrose Place, Beverly Hills 90210, and Full House. Lending his voices to several animated programs, Miko's voice can be heard in Warner Brothers Little Wizard and Life with Louie.

Now when you sit in the theater and see Cogliostro, Jessica Priest or any of the characters walk on camera for the first time, you'll know a little bit more about his or her acting history.

Numerous requests have come in from our foreign readers on when they can see the Spawn movie on the big screen. Here is a tentative list of foreign release dates for Spawn.

Australia	January 8, 1998
France	December 10, 1997
Germany	October 30, 1997
Greece	December, 1997
Italy	Early 1998
Japan	March, 1998
Mexico	October 17, 1997
Philippines	September 10, 1997
South Korea	November 7, 1997
Spain	October, 1997
United Kingdom	October 17, 1997

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THE PSYCHO CIRCUS™

#2

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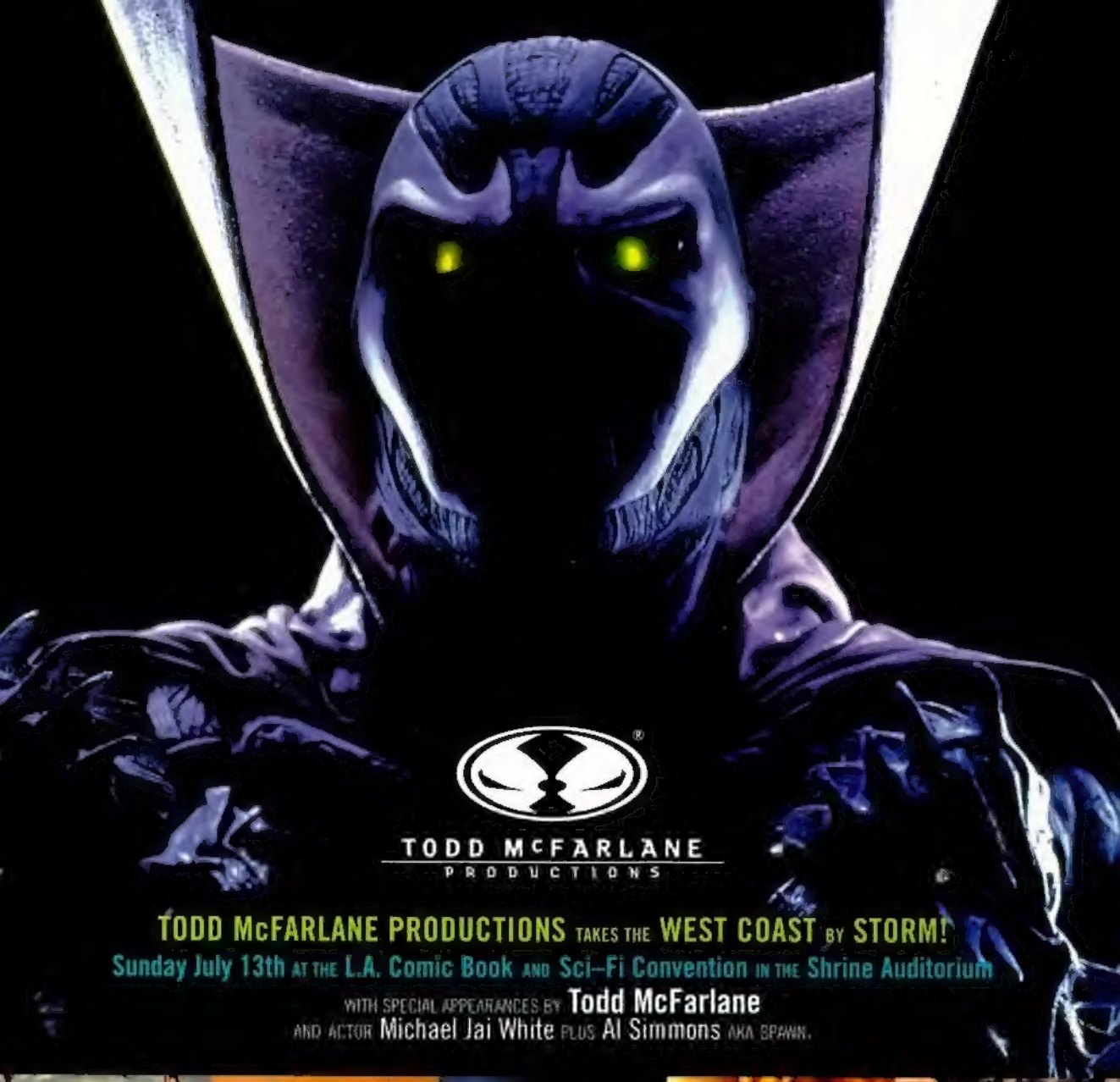

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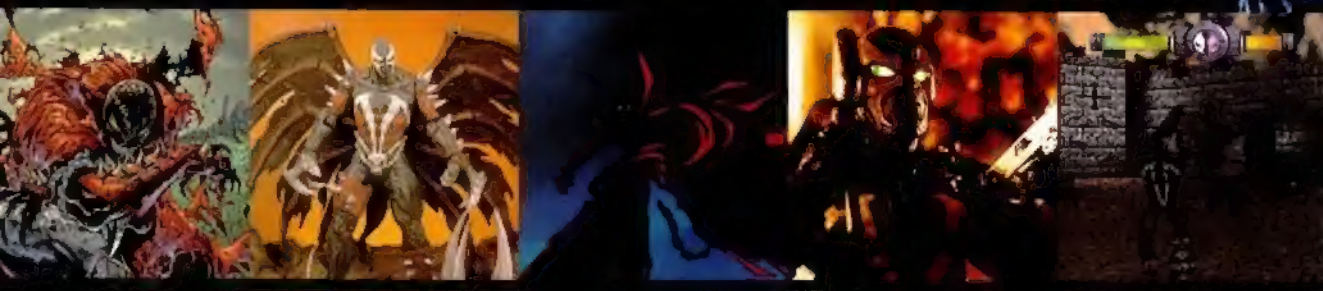

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Spawn, the ground breaking animated program from HBO, will be available in both the Special Edited Edition (PG–13) and the Uncut Collector's Edition (for Mature Audiences) everywhere videos are sold as of August 5th, 1997.

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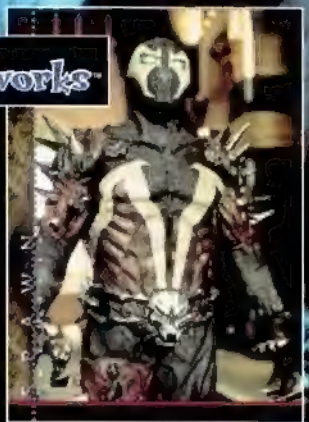

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